

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

MAR 12 2013

Mr. R. Gil Kerlikowske
Director
Executive Office of the President
Office of National Drug Control Policy
Washington, D.C. 20503
U.S.A.

Dr. Margaret A. Hamburg
Commissioner
Food and Drugs Association
White Oak Office Building 1
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20993
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Kerlikowske and Dr. Hamburg:

I am writing to you both today concerning our common interest in preventing the abuse and diversion of pharmaceutical drugs. I was pleased to have had the opportunity to speak with you, Mr. Kerlikowske, on November 30, 2012, on this issue.

Solutions to this issue must balance the importance of allowing access to pain medication for those in need with the need to mitigate the risk of diversion and abuse. We remain particularly concerned with the potential for abuse and diversion of pharmaceutical drugs, including generic versions of OxyContin.

Late last year, I offered to work collaboratively with my provincial and territorial colleagues so that together we may monitor the use of prescription drugs and take concrete measures to control their abuse. I've enclosed this correspondence for your reference.

As neighbours, we have a shared responsibility to require appropriate controls in our respective jurisdictions, for the health and safety of our communities and also to reduce risks of cross-border trafficking. Preventing the abuse and diversion of pharmaceutical drugs is an area where cooperation between our two countries would be valuable in helping to achieve our common objectives. To this end, I propose that our officials work together to develop joint evidence-based guidance on abuse deterrence that could be used on both sides of the border. This would be consistent with the Regulatory Cooperation Council and would create a level playing field between our jurisdictions.

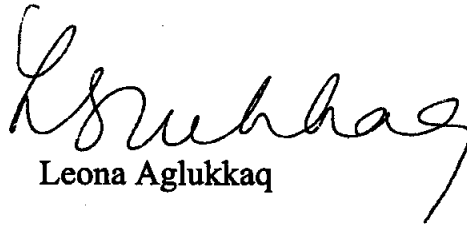
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I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible so that we can collectively move forward with the aim of informing an evidence-based approach in our respective jurisdictions.

I look forward to speaking with you further on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leona Aglukkaq', with a stylized, cursive script. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

Leona Aglukkaq

Enclosure